

Chichikogusa

Chapter 19

BY TAGAWA MI

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THIS IS THE
FOURTH VOLUME.
I'M VERY HAPPY TO
EVERYONE WHO'S
HELPED ME MAKE IT
TO SHIROU AND
TORAKICHI'S
SECOND JOURNEY.

—TAGAWA MI

4



【父子草】

ち
ち
こ
ぐ
さ

【父子草】

4

田
川
ミ

田
川
ミ

MAG
Garden



ISBN978-4-8000-0496-3
C9979 ¥571E

雑誌53939-84
定価：[本体571円] + 税
マッグガーデン



TORAKICHI AND SHIROU
SET OFF ON A NEW
FATHER-AND-SON
JOURNEY.

WHO WILL THEY MEET
ALONG THE WAY THIS
TIME?



ACCIDENT

RECENTLY
I WAS INSURED
BECAUSE
OF AN
ACCIDENT.



MY NAME
IS IESI.

A FOOLISH WOMAN

THAT CHILD
SURE IS
CUTE.

MY!



IT'S NOT LIKE
IT WAS REALLY
THAT MONKEY'S
FAULT.

CLATTER



EEE
EEE!

I'M SURE HIS
FATHER MUST
BE...



E
E
E
E
E!

"HELLO
THERE."

I SNAPPED
AT HIM SO
MANY TIMES,

THIS
WOUND IS
REALLY
MY OWN
FAULT.

HMPH.



HUH?



A
A
A
A
A
A
H!

DECIDED TO
MAKE UP

SHAKE

I FEEL LIKE
SOMEHOW
YOU'RE SAYING
SOMETHING
VERY RUDE.

So it's
you, is
it? Who
knew?!

MY, I
DON'T KNOW
WHETHER
TO FEEL
CHEATED OR
DEJECTED.



TASTE IN MEN

PLAYING TOGETHER

HUH...?

I wonder if I should call out to him.

OH, THERE'S A GOOD ONE! ♡

...

UM...

AT FIRST, THE TWO OF THEM DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

STAFFLE

WHERE ARE YOU LOOKING?! OF COURSE I WOULDN'T GET IN A FUSS OVER SOME FOOLISH GIRL LIKE THAT!

THINKING

YOU MEAN YOU'RE INTO GUYS WHO LOOK LIKE GIRLS TOO?

OKAY?!

UH,

YEAH.

AH!

HIDE AND SEEK?

YEAH.

MANLY

I MEANT NEXT TO HER!

C-COME FIND ME!

COME FIND ME!

...

DO YOU?

And why is your nose bleeding?

POP

I SEE.

AH, REALLY?!

YOU KNOW, ONE OF YOU HAS TO BE "IT"...

RUSTLE

ちちこぐさ

【父子草】





CHAPTER 19 - GROWTH AND DIARIES

CHAPTER 20 - SPRING AND CONFESSIONS

CHAPTER 21 - SWEET FLAG AND HELMET

CHAPTER 23 - ABANDONED CHILD AND FELLOW TRAVELLER

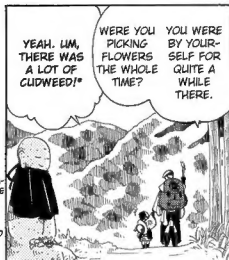
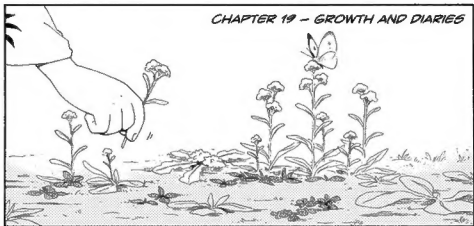
CHAPTER 24 - SHIROU AND KOMA

CHAPTER 25 - FIRST FRIEND

EXTRA STORY - SHIROU AND THE SNOW DAY



CHAPTER 19 - GROWTH AND DIARIES



*THE JAPANESE NAME FOR THIS PLANT IS "MOTHER AND CHILD GRASS"





HEY, ARE
YOU
OKAY?



SHIROU
CAN DO IT
BY HIM-
SELF!

I'M
OKAY.



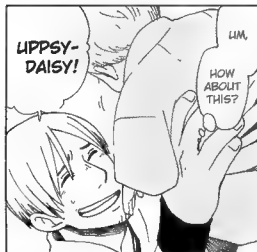
HERE, LET'S
HOLD HANDS.

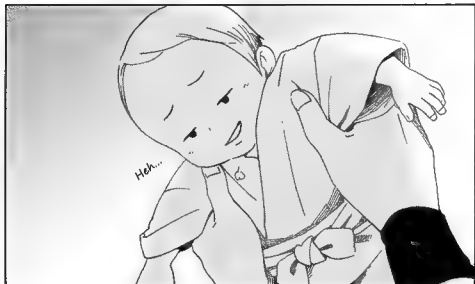
THIS MOUN-
TAIN PATH
IS STEEP,
HUH?













WOW,
HOW
GREAT!



HUH?

WANTS
TO HOLD
HIM TOO!



I FEEL LIKE SHIROU
SOMEHOW MATURED A
WHOLE LOT WHILE I
WASN'T LOOKING.

PLEASE MAKE
YOURSELVES
AT HOME FOR
AS LONG AS
YOU'RE HERE.

ALTHOUGH THE
LITTLE ONE IS
PRETTY NOISY
AT NIGHT TIME.



...



YOU'RE
EVEN
BETTER AT
THIS THAN
YOUR
FATHER!

YOU'RE
BOTH
SO
CUTE!

Wow!

Eehee.





HARD TO
BELIEVE HOW
REMARKABLY
HE'S CHANGED
LATELY...



HER HAND-
WRITING IS
AWFUL...

OCTOBER
23RD



EVEN IF I GAVE
HIM MY BREAST,
HE WOULD ONLY
CALM DOWN A
LITTLE BEFORE HE
STARTED CRYING
AGAIN.

SHIROU IS
ONE WEEK
OLD HE
CRIES A LOT.



"THEY'RE
DIARIES YOUR
WIFE WROTE
ABOUT SHIROU."



IT ALL
SOUNDS
THE SAME.

Just a
lot of
crying.

MAYBE
THAT'S
WHY THE
HAND-
WRITING
IS SO
AWFUL...

FLIP

DECEMBER SIXTH.
SHIROU IS TWO
MONTHS OLD.

LAST NIGHT HE
CRIED ALL NIGHT
LONG. BECAUSE OF
THAT HE SLEPT IN
THIS MORNING.
BUT HE WOKE UP
CRYING AGAIN



NOVEMBER
SIXTH

SHIROU IS
ONE MONTH
OLD.

HE'S A LIGHT
SLEEPER. WHEN-
EVER I PUT HIM
DOWN DOWN ON
THE FUTON HE
WAKES UP CRYING



SHIROU WILL BE
TWO AND A HALF
TOMORROW. HE
CRIES A LOT AT
NIGHT

APRIL
FIFTH

HE LIKES TO
PILE UP ROCKS
IN THE CENTER
OF THE ROOM
AND KNOCK
THEM DOWN
AGAIN.



SHIROU TURNED
TWO TODAY, BUT
HE STILL HASN'T
SPOKEN HIS
FIRST WORD.

OCTOBER
SIXTH

HE PICKED
FLOWERS
WHILE WE
WALKED TO
HIS MOTHER'S
GRAVE.



HE REALLY WAS
A TROUBLESOME
CHILD...

SAYING PLANT
NAMES THAT
EARLY HUH?

MAY
NINTH

SINCE HE TURNED
TWO AND A HALF,
SHIROU HAS STARTED
TO TALK A LITTLE.
BUT MOSTLY HE JUST
NAMES PLANTS WITH
MEDICINAL PROPER-
TIES. I WONDER IF
MY HUSBAND IS
TO BLAME?

Takes
after me,
I guess.

Ha
ha.



BUT BECAUSE OF
ALL THE CARE
HE'S RECEIVED
FROM EVERYONE,



HE PUT MY WIFE
AND SISTER
THROUGH A LOT.



INTO
SOMEONE
SPLENDID.



SHIROU'S
GROWN FROM
A CRYBABY



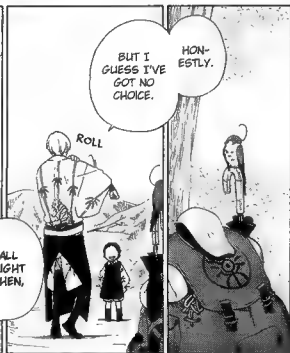
HIC...

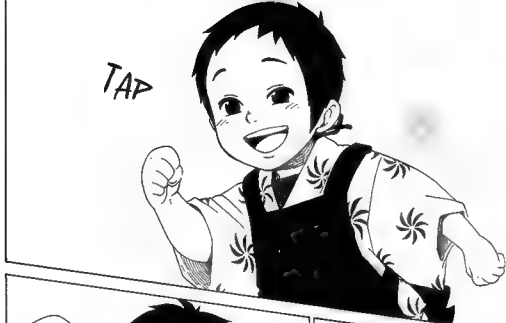


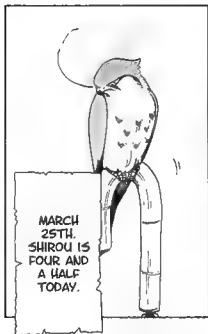














BUT HE'S
STILL A
SWEET KID
SOMETIMES.

LATELY HE'S
BEEN ACTING
MORE INDEPEN-
DENTLY ON OUR
JOURNEYS TO-
GETHER.

I'LL
MESSAGE
IT LATER!

THAT
HURT MY
BACK A
LITTLE.

I DON'T MIND
IF HE TAKES
HIS TIME
GROWING UP
THE REST OF
THE WAY.



I KNOW SHE
WANTS TO KEEP A
DIARY FOR SHIROU.

SHE'S NOT
VERY GOOD AT
READING OR
WRITING.



SHE TREATS
ME LIKE I'M
COMPLETELY
UNINVOLVED.

I
MEAN,

HOW LONG IS
SHE GOING
TO KEEP
DOING THIS?

FLAP FLAP



I'D COMPLETELY
FORGOTTEN
ABOUT THESE
THINGS.

I CAN'T
BELIEVE MY
SISTER EVEN
TOOK IT UP.



HEY, HEY,
TORA,
LISTEN!

SHIROU...

YEAH... I
CAN HEAR
YOU.

PLOP

PLOP

HUH, SO
HE WAS BAD
AT NURSING,
HUH?

WOW, HE
WAS BAD AT
LOTS OF
STUFF.



JUST NOW,
SHIROU...

THERE'S LOTS OF
STUFF I WANT TO
TELL YOU, TOO.



I STARTED
LIKING AN
OLDER MAN
WHO CAME BY
OCCASION-
ALLY.



WHEN I
WAS NINE,

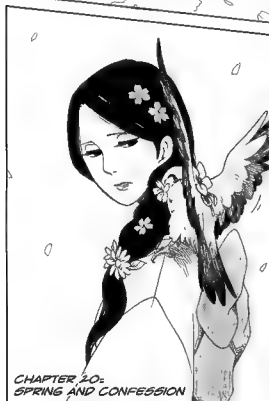
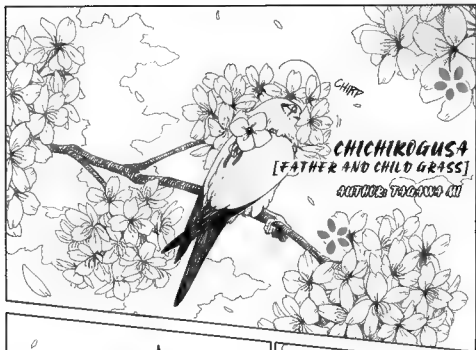


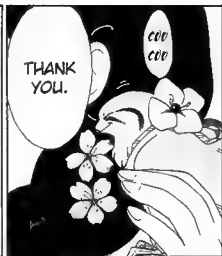
MY FEELINGS
HAVEN'T
CHANGED
A BIT.

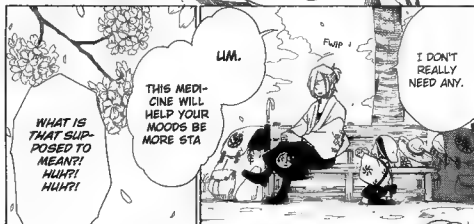


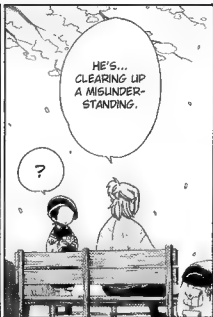
NOW THAT
I'M 19,











I HEARD
ABOUT IT
FROM
TORAKICHI.

Have
some
tea.

FIRST
OF ALL,

YOU'RE
OUR SUB-
STITUTE
MEDICINE
SELLER?

TEN
DAYS
EAR-
LIER

IS MY PUNISH-
MENT FOR
STICKING MY
NOSE INTO
TORAKICHI'S
BUSINESS.

TO TELL YOU
THE TRUTH,
THIS SWITCH
HAS BEEN A
LITTLE RELIEV-
ING.

IS IT OKAY
IF I CALL
YOU CHI-
HARU?

PLEASE,
DON'T
BE SO
FORMAL.

HUH?

I'D LIKE TO
APOLOGIZE FOR
ANY INCONVE-
NIENCE YOU
MIGHT HAVE
EXPERIENCED
BECAUSE OF
THIS.

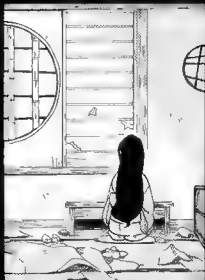
HOPEFULLY
THIS WAY OUR
HEADSTRONG
FOOL OF A
DAUGHTER
WILL SEE
SENSE...

FOR THE
MEAN-TIME,
I'LL BE SERV-
ING YOU IN
TORAKICHI'S
PLACE, SO
PLEASE BEAR
WITH ME.

ACHOO



MISS
MIWA...



I'VE GIVEN
YOUR MOTHER
SOME MEDI-
CINE.

I'LL BE
RETURNING
IN THREE OR
FOUR DAYS,

SO PLEASE
LET ME
KNOW IF YOU
HAVE ANY
CONCERNS.

IF YOU'LL
EXCUSE
ME...

I'VE HEARD
ABOUT YOUR
CONDITION
FROM MY PRE-
DECESSOR.

IT MUST
BE VERY
TRYING.

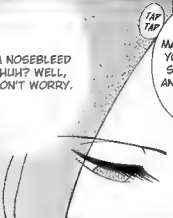
HELLO THERE.
I'M CHIHARU.
A MEDICINE-
SELLER.



I'VE HEARD
STORIES
ABOUT THIS
KIND OF THING
BUT I NEVER
BELIEVED IT.



A YOUNG GIRL
FALLING FOR
A TRAVELING
SALESMAN...



A NOSEBLEED
HUH? WELL,
DON'T WORRY.

TAP
TAP



MAKE SURE
YOU DON'T
SWALLOW
ANY BLOOD.

TAKE A SEAT
HERE AND
PINCH YOUR
NOSE CLOSED.

I'LL GO
GET A COLD
CLOTH.



WHAT'S
YOUR
NAME?



I WANT TO
SEE HIM.



HUH...?

I'LL
GO GET
THE...

THIS WILL
COOL DOWN
YOUR
FOREHEAD.

WHERE IS
HE NOW?



I WANT TO
SEE TORA-
KICHI.



IF THINGS STAY
LIKE THIS, I'LL
JUST KEEP
CRYING MYSELF
TO SLEEP.



IT'S
OKAY. THIS
PERSON
TOLD ME
WHERE TO
FIND HIM.

HE GOT
MARRIED AND
HAD A KID AL-
READY, DIDN'T
HE?! YOU
NEED TO GET
OVER HIM!

ARE
YOU
EVEN
LISTEN-
ING?!

YOU'RE
STILL
TALKING
LIKE
THAT?!



I'VE STILL
NEVER SAID
ANYTHING
TO HIM.



SINCE
SHE
WAS 9,
HUH...

I DON'T WANT
THESE FEELINGS
I'VE HELD SINCE I
WAS 9 TO VANISH
WITHOUT ME TELL-
ING HIM ABOUT
THEM.



I KEEP
THINKING...
IF IT GOES
ON LIKE THIS,
WITH US
NEVER MEET-
ING AGAIN...



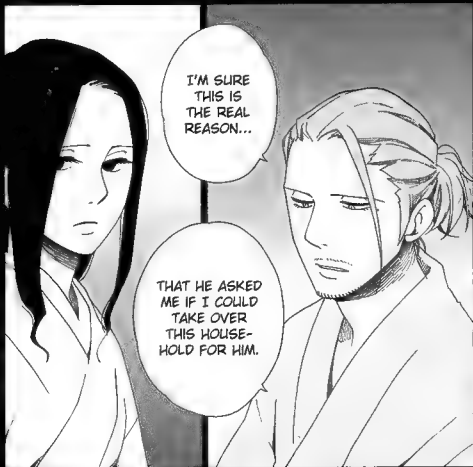
BUT SHE'S
NEVER BEEN
ABLE TO COM-
MUNICATE HER
FEELINGS,
CORRECT?

IN OTHER
WORDS, SHE
DOESN'T ACTU-
ALLY KNOW HOW
HE'D RESPOND.



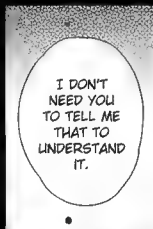
HOW
STEADY
OF HER

I'M SORRY
IF THIS IS
TOO FOR-
WARD OF
ME,



I'M SURE
THIS IS
THE REAL
REASON...

THAT HE ASKED
ME IF I COULD
TAKE OVER
THIS HOUSE-
HOLD FOR HIM.



I DON'T
NEED YOU
TO TELL ME
THAT TO
UNDERSTAND
IT.



OW!
THIS
HURTS, STOP
DAMNIT! IT!

OW,
WHA—

MIWA!



UGH.

FWISH

I'VE
LIKED HIM
ALL THIS
TIME...!

BUT EVEN IF
HE DOESN'T
NEED A
PARTNER,

EVEN IF
HE'S NOT
LOOKING
FOR A
WOMAN,

WELL THEN,
HOW ABOUT I
GO TELL THAT
NO-GOOD FOOL
THAT YOU WANT
TO SEE HIM?

I WANT TO
AT LEAST
TELL HIM.

HEH...

YOU'VE
GOT GUTS.

JUST
LEAVE ALL THE
REST OF THE
PREPARATIONS
TO ME.



YOU JUST
WAIT AND
SEE!

SORRY
FOR JUST
DUCKING OUT
ON YOU LIKE
THAT.



YOU ASSHOLE,
TORAKICHI,
~~STAYING AWAY~~
WITH THIS
PAIN-IN-THE-
BUTT KID!

I'LL
NEVER
FORGIVE
YOU!



BY THE TIME
WE'RE DONE,
YOU'LL BE THE
ONE GIVING
HIM THE COLD
SHOULDER AND
LAUGHING.

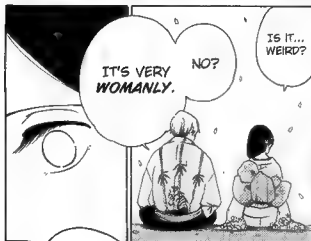
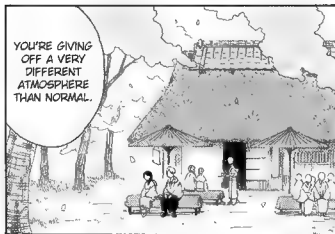


HA.

SHIVER



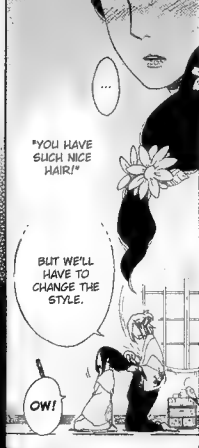




I'VE ALWAYS
PERCEIVED
YOU THAT
WAY, INSIDE.

I KEEP ASKING
MYSELF IF YOU'RE
REALLY THE SAME
KID I MET WHEN
YOU WERE NINE
YEARS OLD.

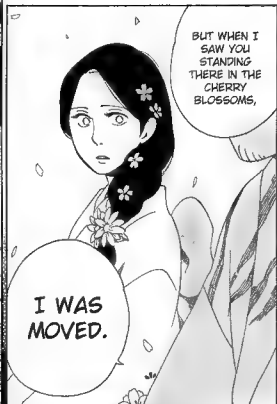




"YOU HAVE
SUCH NICE
HAIR!"

BUT WE'LL
HAVE TO
CHANGE THE
STYLE.

OW!



BUT WHEN I
SAW YOU
STANDING
THERE IN THE
CHERRY
BLOSSOMS,

I WAS
MOVED.



I'M NOT
HAVING ANY
DAMN FUN!

EVERY LAST
BIT OF THIS IS
A TOTAL PAIN
IN MY ASS,
YOU GOT IT?!

UH...



YOU SEEM
LIKE YOU'RE
HAVING FUN.

HEY, IRYO.
WHICH COLOR
DO YOU THINK
WOULD BE BEST
FOR HER LIPS?

CHIRP

CAW!

CHIRP





WELL,
THAT'S NOT
REALLY
TRUE.

IT'S
ROSE
PERFUME.

PER-
FUME...?



I GUESS
YOU COULD
CALL IT A
LOVE
POTION?

Hee
hee!

?!



WHAT
WAS
THAT?



"IF WE PUT
IT ON YOUR
WRIST, GOOD
THINGS'LL
HAPPEN."

TORA-
KICHI...



[ROSE]

EFFICACY:
GOOD SKIN;
APHRODISIAC;
CALMS THE NERVES;
ETCETERA

YEAH. THE SCENT
OF ROSES HAS
ALL KINDS OF
PROPERTIES. LIKE
ATTRACTING MEN
TO YOU AND
HOLDING THEM
PRISONER TO
YOUR CHARM.

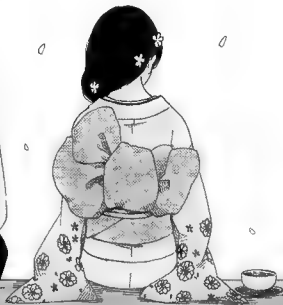


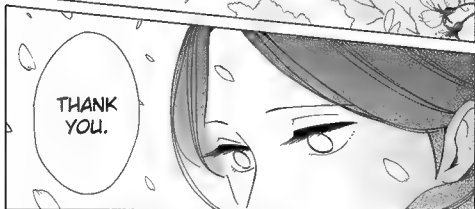
This
stuff is
pretty
expen-
sive.

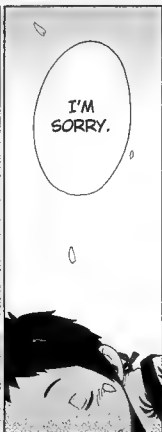


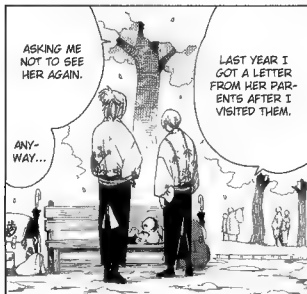
EVER SINCE
THE FIRST
TIME WE
MET, I'VE...

ALWAYS HAD
FEELINGS
FOR YOU.











I KNOW I
SHOULD HAVE
TOLD HER THAT
WHEN I STARTED
TO REALIZE WHAT
HER FEELINGS
WERE.

I'M NOT REALLY
INTERESTED IN
FINDING AN-
OTHER WOMAN.



YOU
REALLY
ARE A
WEAK-
SPINED
MAN,

JEEZ!

TORA!



I'M SORRY
FOR MAKING
THINGS
HARD ON
YOU AGAIN,
CHIHARU.

BUT I NEED TO
KEEP ASKING
YOU TO TAKE
ON MIWA'S
HOUSE...



AAAH!
♡

IF YOU ...
STAAARE
AT ME LIKE
THAT...

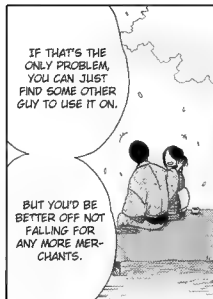


BFX. WHAM



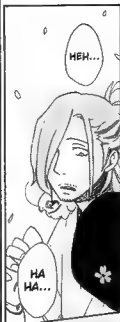








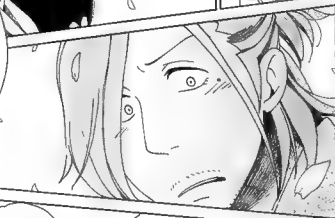
YOU'RE
A GOOD
PERSON,
CHIHARU.



HEH...

HA
HA...

THANK YOU
VERY MUCH FOR
LETTING ME BE
SO SELFISH
LIKE THIS.



**SCREW
OFF!**

BUT YOU'RE
KIND, AND
YOU'RE CUTE
AS WELL.

AND
DON'T
YOU DARE
CALL ME
A GOOD
PERSON!

YOU STILL
HAVE BLOOD
COMING
FROM YOUR
NOSE!

AH. I WANTED
TO TRY LAUGHING
JUST NOW. HOW
DID IT LOOK?

I LIKED HIM
SINCE I WAS
FIVE YEARS
OLD.



HE WAS THE
SON OF A
RELATIVE.

THE PULL
OF FIRST
LOVE.

I WAS
REALLY
HAPPY.



LONG HAIR
WOULD
SUIT ME.



HE WAS THE
ONE WHO
TOLD ME...

HE HAD
ALREADY
MARRIED.



BUT BY
THE TIME I
REALIZED WHAT
MY FEELINGS
MEANT,



EVEN WHEN I
MEET HIM,

SINCE HE'S A
RELATIVE, I STILL
SEE HIM OFTEN.

HE ALWAYS SEEMS
HAPPY TO SEE ME,
AND ASKS FOR
NEWS ABOUT MY
FAMILY AND STUFF.



HE STILL
DOESN'T
KNOW WHY I
HAVEN'T CUT
MY HAIR.



I CAN'T BE THAT
OPEN-HEARTED
ANY MORE.



IT'S SAD I
NEVER TOLD
HIM WHEN I
HAD THE
CHANCE.

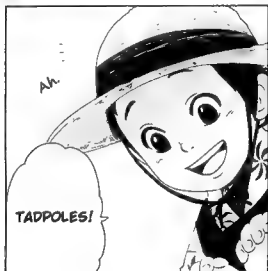
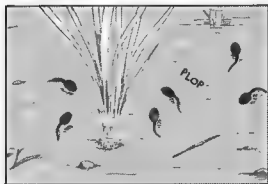
LET'S
GO OVER
THERE.

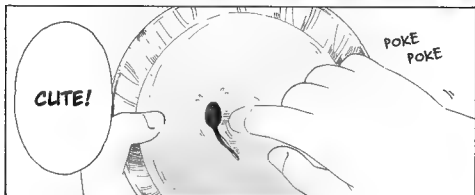
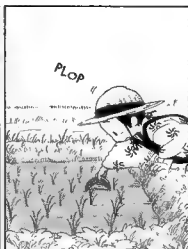


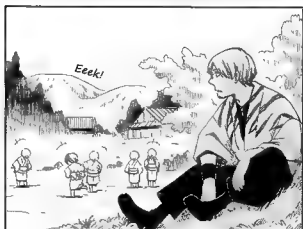
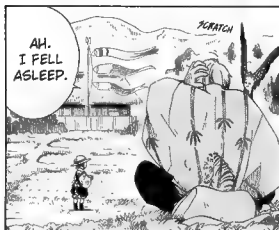
CHICHIKOGUSA
[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]

AUTHOR: TAGAWA MI

CHAPTER 21:
SWEET FLAG AND HELMET











IF YOU TELL
THEM YOU
WANT TO BE
FRIENDS, IT'S
EASY, RIGHT?

JUST GO OVER
AND SAY HELLO,
LIKE YOU DO TO
MY CUSTOMERS.



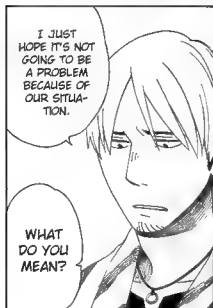
DO YOU
WANT ME
TO GO
OVER WITH
YOU?



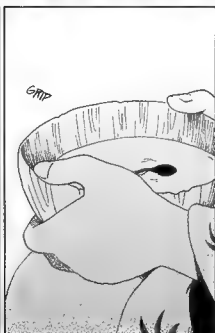
YOU'RE
BUSY,
RIGHT,
PAPA?

I DON'T
NEED TO
DO THAT
SORT OF
STUFF!

LET'S GET
BACK TO
WORK!









IT'S BOYS' DAY TODAY, AFTER ALL.

WHY DID YOU PUT IT IN THE BATH?

OKAY, OKAY! HURRY UP AND GET IN THE TUB!

UH. GOOD FOR LOSS OF APPETITE AND INDIGESTION AND...

SWEET FLAG! WHITE IRIS...

BOYS' DAY?



EVER SINCE ANCIENT TIMES, IT'S BEEN A DAY TO CELEBRATE MALE CHILDREN'S GOOD HEALTH, AND GIVE WISHES FOR THEM TO GROW INTO GOOD MEN.

THE HOLIDAY.

YEAH, BOYS' DAY!



YOU KNOW, SO YOU'LL BE BIG AND STRONG AND HEALTHY.

!

[ACORIS CALAMUS]

SWEET FLAG

EFFICACY:

USEFUL IN CASES OF DECREASED APPETITE, NEURALGIA, AND SO ON. MEDICINAL PROPERTIES ARE MOSTLY FOUND IN ITS UNDERGROUND ROOT SYSTEMS.

I PUT THE SWEET FLAG INTO THE BATH...

SO YOU CAN GROW UP WELL*.



WHAT IS IT?

?

...



GROW UP WELL?

*TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: THIS FOLK BELIEF PRESUMABLY STEMS FROM THE FACT THAT "SHOUBU" (SWEET FLAG) AND "JOUBU" (WELL) SOUND ALMOST IDENTICAL.



ARE YOU
WORRIED ABOUT
ME BECAUSE
I'M A WEAKLING
AND CAN'T MAKE
FRIENDS...?



AM I... A
WEAKLING?

HUH?



AND I DON'T
THINK THAT
THE REASON
YOU DON'T
MAKE FRIENDS
IS BECAUSE
YOU'RE WEAK.

THAT'S NOT
REALLY WHAT
I MEANT.

BUT!



SCRATCH SCRATCH

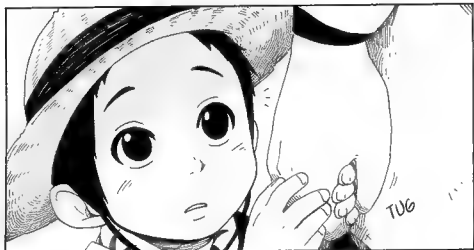
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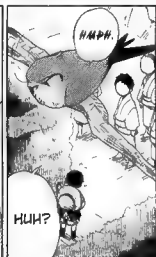
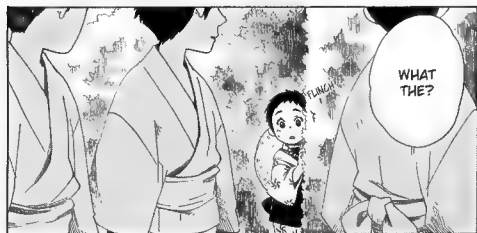
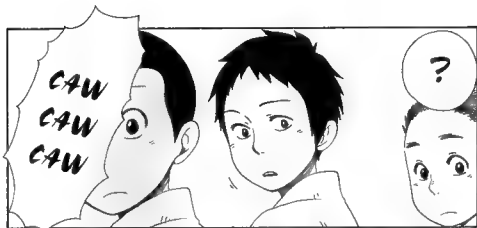








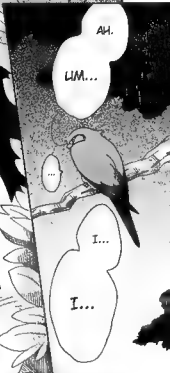






I
WANT...

TO
COME
TOO!



AH.

UM...

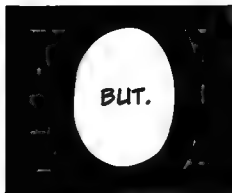
I...

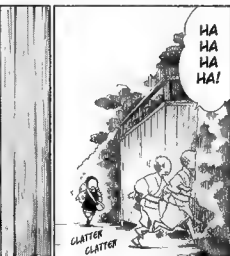
I...



HUH...?











MAKE
SURE...

YOU GIVE
THAT TO
YOUR SON.
HE'LL BE
PLEASED!



HOW HAS
YOUR
STOMACH
BEEN
LATELY?

HM?







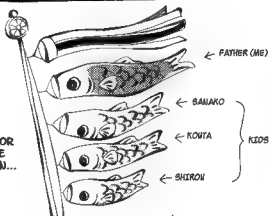


FOOTNOTE: IT'S TRADITIONAL TO MAKE HELMETS ON BOY'S DAY.





BUT FOR
SOME
REASON...



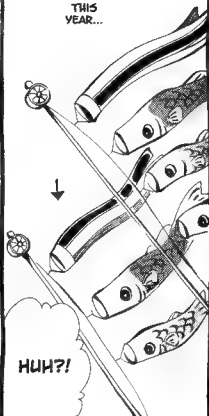
UNTIL LAST
YEAR, WE
FLEW A POLE
OF FISH FOR
BOY'S DAY.

THERE'S
TWO OF
THEM!

Why why
why?!



THIS
YEAR...



FOOTNOTE: HE MEANS
TORAKICHI'S AND SHERON'S.



EXTRA STORY 11 - END

CHICHIKOGUSA



[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]

AUTHOR: TAGAWA MI



CHAPTER 22: ABANDONED
CHILD AND FELLOW TRAVELER













SHE AND
HER CHILD.

ABOUT A
YEAR AGO, A
GIRL NAMED
HANAKO CAME
HERE.

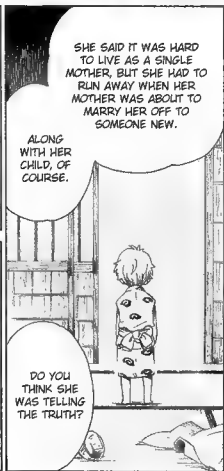
THAT'S
RIGHT.



SHE
ASKED ME
WHAT TO
DO.

SHE SAID HER
MOTHER DIDN'T
HAVE ANY RELA-
TIVES, AND THAT
SHE DIDN'T KNOW
WHAT TO DO WITH
THE CHILD.

THAT'S
...



SHE SAID IT WAS HARD
TO LIVE AS A SINGLE
MOTHER, BUT SHE HAD TO
RUN AWAY WHEN HER
MOTHER WAS ABOUT TO
MARRY HER OFF TO
SOMEONE NEW.

ALONG
WITH HER
CHILD, OF
COURSE.



HEY.

YOU'VE BEEN
AROUND A BIT,
RIGHT? WHAT'S A
GOOD PLACE TO
SEND SOMEONE
LIKE THAT?

HUH?

DO YOU
THINK SHE
WAS TELLING
THE TRUTH?



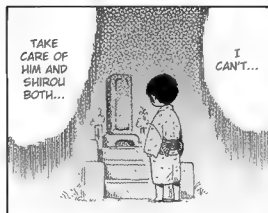
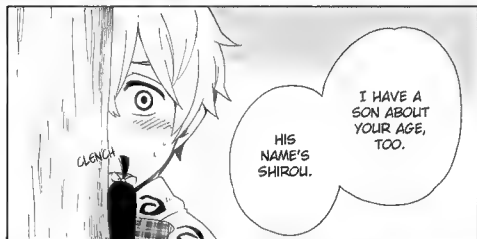


THAT'S
HOW HE
IS...



IS THAT
YOU,
KOMA?!

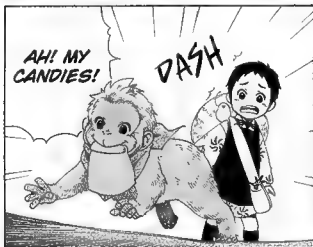










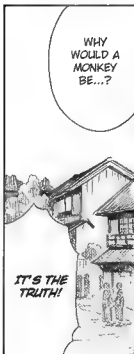


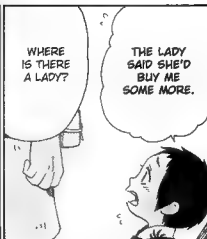
















THIS IS
SHIROU, THE
SON I TOLD
YOU ABOUT
EARLIER.



YOU'RE GOING
TO BE COMING
ALONG WITH US
FOR A LITTLE
WHILE. JUST THE
THREE OF US.

OKAY?





I HOPE
YOU'LL BE
ABLE TO GET
ALONG WELL
WITH ONE
ANOTHER.

WHAT...?

I RECOGNIZED
THE LONELINESS IN
HIS EYES.



WHY I
BROUGHT
HIM ALONG.

WHAT HAPPENED
WITH HIS PARENT
IS THE SAME
THING I DID
TO SHIROU...



I
THOUGHT...





WANT TO
COME WITH
US?

BUT WE'LL
FIND YOU A
NEW HOME
SOMEWHERE.

WE WON'T BE
LOOKING FOR
YOUR MOM,

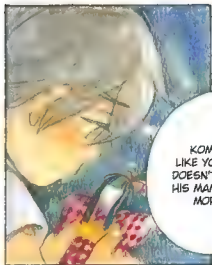
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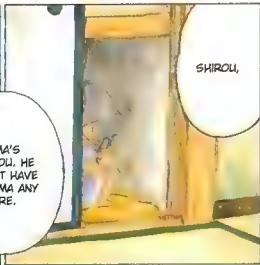
HIS TINY HAND, SO
WARM AGAINST MINE,
WAS EXACTLY THE
SAME AS SHIROU'S.

I COULDN'T
HELP IT.





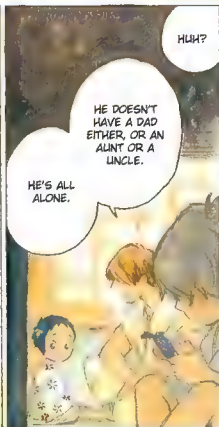
KOMA'S
LIKE YOU. HE
DOESN'T HAVE
HIS MAMA ANY
MORE.



SHIROU,



I NEED
YOU TO BE
NICE TO HIM,
OKAY?



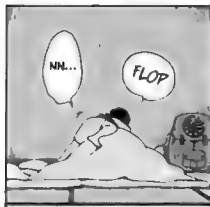
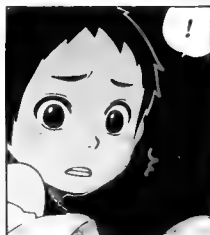
HUH?

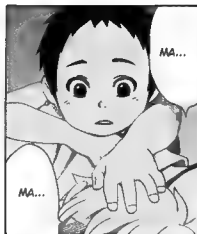
HE DOESN'T
HAVE A DAD
EITHER, OR AN
AUNT OR A
UNCLE.

HE'S ALL
ALONE.

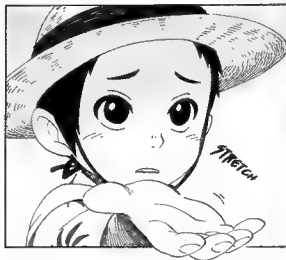
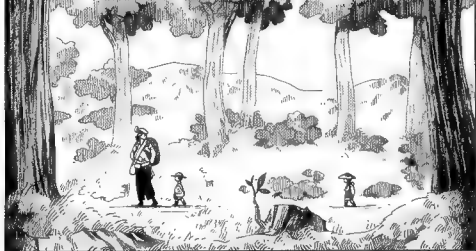
田川
ミ







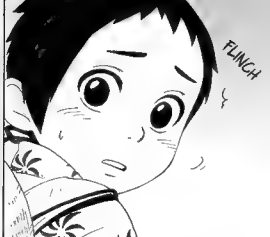
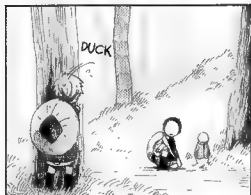














SFX SHOVE







AH...

YOU'RE BOTH SO CUTE! YOU'LL BE SO HANDSOME WHEN YOU'RE OLDER!



SMILE

I NEVER THOUGHT THAT I'D FIND TWO HANDSOME YOUNG MEN LIKE THIS.

SMILE

?!

MY MY.



HUH?



WERE YOU FIGH...

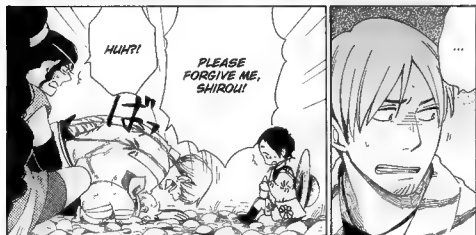
WHAT'S GOING ON? I HEARD SOMEONE SHOUTING.

AH, THERE YOU ARE.

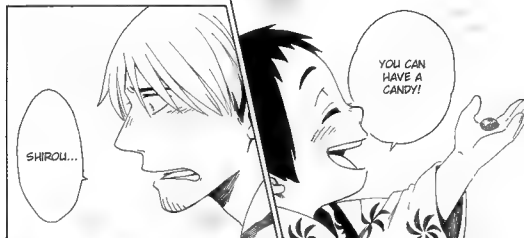
Hup!

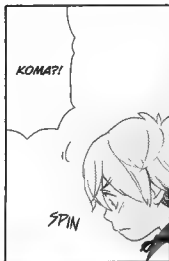






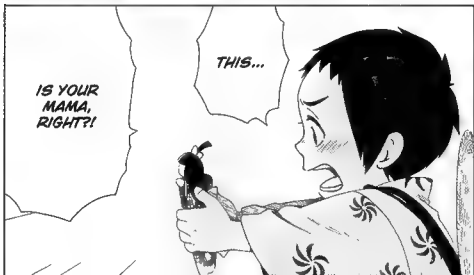














MAMA HAS
TO GO OUT
FOR A WHILE,

SO YOU
CAN PLAY
WITH THIS
DOLL...

AH...



KOMA...
THIS IS
FOR YOU.



SHIROU'S
MAMA IS A
JIZOU STATUE,
SO SHIROU UN-
DERSTANDS!



W
A
A
A
A
A
A
H!

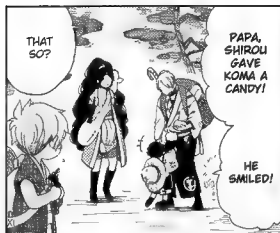
W
A
A
A
A
A
H!



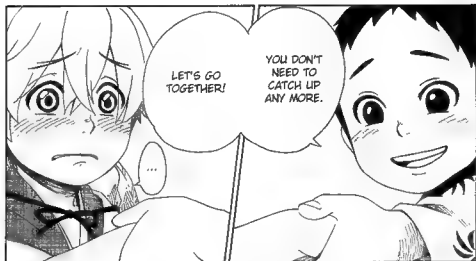












WHAT?!

I'VE LOVED
YOU EVER
SINCE WE
MET. MARRY
ME!

THERE WAS A MAN I
WAS IN LOVE WITH
BACK THEN, AND I
MISTOOK TORAKICHI
FOR HIM.

IT WAS
15 YEARS
AGO WHEN I
FIRST MET
TORAKICHI.

Torakichi
(16)

BOW

Shou
(16)

← real crush

EVERY TIME WE
MET, WE WOULD
TALK TO EACH
OTHER ABOUT OUR
FAILED ATTEMPTS
AT LOVE.

I WAS
ALWAYS GET-
TING DUMPED BY
PEOPLE. (THIS
WAS MY 26TH.)

TORAKICHI
BECAME A GOOD
FRIEND BECAUSE
OF IT.

YOU MUST
TOTALLY HAVE
THE HOTS
FOR HER,
HUH?!

THAT'S
NOT HOW
IT IS!

GRIN GRIN

He's so
cool!

HEY, HEY,
INTRODUCE
ME TO HIM!



GRIN
GRIN

HEARING TORAKICHI'S
TALES OF WOE WAS
THE ABSOLUTE BEST
MEDICINE FOR ME.



SO I ASKED WHY
THEY DIDN'T
JUST ELOPE.



I HEARD THE
GIRL HE LIKED WAS
IN AN ARRANGED
MARRIAGE,



WHEN I HEARD
THAT THEY REALLY
HAD, I WAS SO
ANNOYED.



← Dumped the previous day
(52nd time)

CHICHIKOGUSA

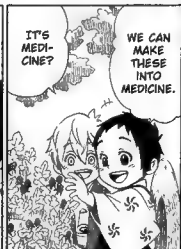
[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]

AUTHOR: TAGAWA MI



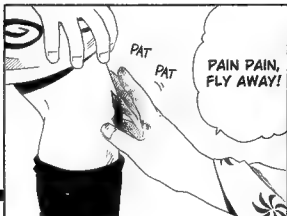
CHAPTER 24: FIRST FRIEND











PAT
PAT

PAIN PAIN,
FLY AWAY!



I
BROUGHT
YOU SOME
MEDICINE.

BOW

SNAP
SNAP

IT'S A GREAT
MEDICINE FOR
ANY TIME YOU'VE
GOTTEN HURT.

[KNOTWEED]
FALLOPIA
JAPONICA

EFFICACY:

WORKS AS A DIURETIC
OR LAXATIVE
THE UNCOOKED LEAVES
ARE ALSO USEFUL FOR
STOPPING SMALL CUTS
FROM BLEEDING.

I JUST PUT A
LEAF CALLED
"KNOTWEED"
ON YOU.

NOW IT'S
FLY AWAY!

BOO!

...

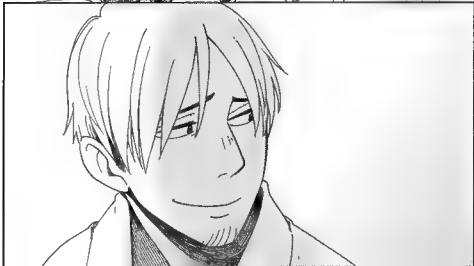


There
there.

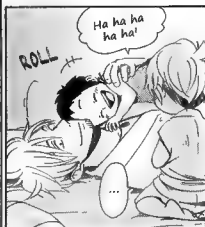
YOU'RE
OKAY
NOW.

"KNOT-
WEED: THE
PRONUN-
CIATION FOR
THIS IS "TA-
DORI"
SAYS IT
WITH THE
KANJI FOR
"PAIN"
AND "FLY,"
HENCE HIS
RHyme.
IT'S NOR-
MALLY
WRITTEN
WITH DIF-
FERENT
KANJI.









WE ONLY
GOT TO TRAVEL
TOGETHER FOR
FIVE DAYS, IN
THE END...

HE
SHOULD
...

TO PLAY
MORE WITH
HIS NEW
FRIEND...

HAVE
BEEN
ABLE...

IT SURE
WOULD BE NICE
TO TAKE HIM
SOMEWHERE,
EVEN IF IT'S
NOT THE SEA.

HAVING TO
ABANDON THE
CHILD YOU HAD
WITH A MAN YOU
DIDN'T EVEN
LOVE IS KARMIC
RETRIBUTION.



MAMA?



I'LL BE
SURE TO
MAKE YOU
HAPPY.



YOU'RE
BETTER OFF
JUST CUTTING
TIES WITH A
CHILD LIKE
THAT.

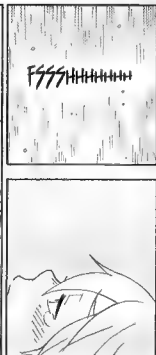
DON'T
WORRY,
JUST COME
WITH ME.



WE WON'T
BE ABLE
TO LEAVE
LIKE THIS...

WOW, IT'S
RAINING
REALLY
HARD.

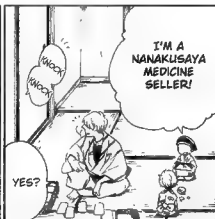
AH!

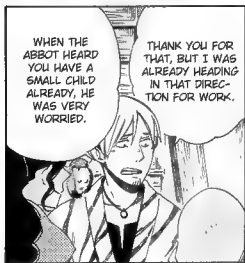


FSSSSHHHHHHH

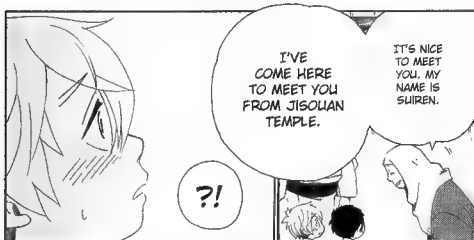


MAMA!



















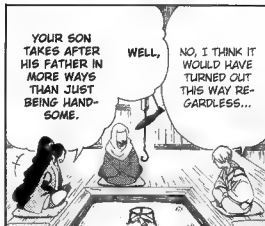


IT'S OKAY,
TORAKICHI. LET
THEM CALM
DOWN A BIT.

...



SHI...



YOUR SON
TAKES AFTER
HIS FATHER IN
MORE WAYS
THAN JUST
BEING HAND-
SOME.

WELL,

NO, I THINK IT
WOULD HAVE
TURNED OUT
THIS WAY RE-
GARDLESS...



SORRY
ABOUT THIS.
I SHOULD
HAVE COME
SOONER.



WELL, IT'S...
HIS FIRST
FRIEND.



THAT'S
SOMETHING
YOU DON'T
FIND OFTEN,
ESPECIALLY
WITH A
HANDSOME
FACE.

HE PRO-
TECTS HIS
FRIENDS AS
WELL AS
HE CAN.

WHAT?!

He'll be
the best
when he's
older

Yeah,
yeah.



AND HIS
MOTHER'S GONE.
HE DOESN'T
REALLY HAVE
ANYONE ELSE.

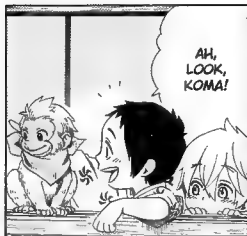


EATING A
CANDY WILL
CHEER YOU
UP!

WE HAVEN'T
EATEN ANY
TODAY, SO
WHY DON'T
WE SHARE
ONE.







AH,
LOOK,
KOMA!



HUH?
THE RAIN
STOPPED.

WOW,
THAT'S
AWESOME!

EE
EE.

PLOP



SPARKLE

SPARKLE



!

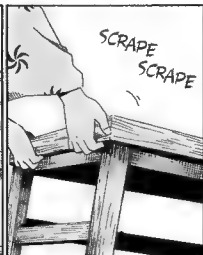
HEY, LET'S
TRY WALKING
UNDER IT!



SO
PRETTY.



IT'S A
RAINBOW!



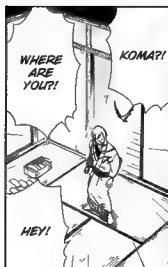






SFX: GLOMP







CHICHIKOGUSA

[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]

AUTHOR: TAGAWA MI



EXTRA STORY: SHIROU AND THE SNOW DAY

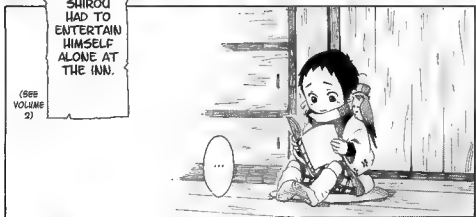


THIS
HAPPENED
A LITTLE
WHILE AGO,

WHEN
TORAKICHI
WAS SICK
IN BED
WITH A
FEVER.

SHIROU
HAD TO
ENTERTAIN
HIMSELF
ALONE AT
THE INN.

(SEE
VOLUME
2)



SHUT IT,
WEIRDO.

Wow.
YOU'RE
THE
WORST,
YOU
KNOW?

IF YOU GIMME
MONEY, I'LL
PLAY WITH 'IM.

EXCUSE
ME?!

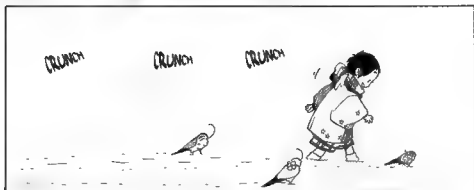
MISSING

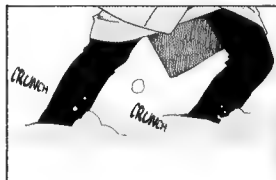
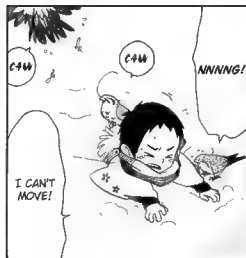


I HAVE NO
INTEREST IN
KIDS OR
THAT GUY,
SORRY.
♡

TCH. FOR SOME-
ONE WHO'S STUCK
INSIDE WITH A SICK
CO-WORKER, YOU
SURE HAVE A LOT
OF FREE TIME.









IF YOU'RE
GOING TO
APOLOGIZE,
DON'T GET
INTO TROUBLE
IN THE FIRST
PLACE!

S...
SORRY...



DO YOU
AND YOUR
DAD EXIST
ONLY TO
CAUSE ME
TROUBLE?!

!



POP

AH!

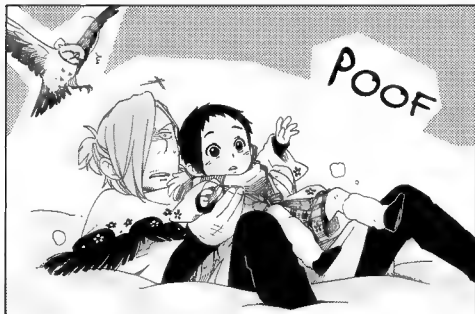


WHY ARE
YOU SO
STUCK...?

Huh?

HON-
ESTLY...

TUG











CHICHIROGUSA
[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]



EXTRAS...

NAMED FOR KOMAINU, THE PAIRED LION-DOG STATUES WHICH FLANK SHINTO SHRINES. (SHIROU'S NAME COMES FROM THIS TOO, SINCE "SHISHI" IS THE SPECIFIC NAME FOR THE LEFT-HAND LION-DOG.)



APPEARED IN THE FIRST VOLUME. IT'S QUITE NOSTALGIC TO SEE HER AGAIN!



THIS MONKEY WAS PICKED UP BY SHOU WHEN HE WAS ABANDONED AS A CHILD. BECAUSE SHE THOUGHT IT WAS A LUCKY MEETING, SHE CALLED HIM ENISHI, WRITTEN WITH THE KANJI FOR "FATE." (A VERY MISCHIEVOUS LITTLE BOY.)



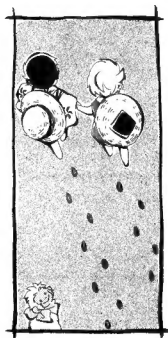
REALLY INTO ATTRACTIVE MEN, BUT IS ALWAYS GETTING SHOT DOWN BY THEM.

CHICHIKOGUSA - AFTERWORD

HELLO!

SOMEHOW HERE WE ARE AGAIN AT THE END OF CHICHIKOGUSA, VOLUME 4. I JUST WANT TO SAY THANK YOU TO EVERYONE AGAIN. HOW ARE YOU FINDING THE FATHER AND SON PAIR'S JOURNEY NOW THAT THEY'VE LEFT THEIR HOME VILLAGE AGAIN?

I KNOW I'VE LEFT OFF THIS VOLUME ON A CLIFF-HANGER, BUT THE STORY WILL PICK UP STRAIGHT AWAY IN VOLUME 5, SO PLEASE ENJOY IT WHEN IT COMES OUT!



THANKS TO MY OLD EDITOR "I", WHO WAS WITH ME SINCE THE BEGINNING, FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK! AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH MY NEW EDITOR "I" FROM NOW ON. (THAT'S A LITTLE CONFUSING)

THANKS TO MY YOUNGER SISTER FOR WORKING AS MY ASSISTANT, AND THANKS TO MY NEPHEW AND MOTHER FOR EVERYTHING.

THE PACE OF VOLUME RELEASES IS A LITTLE SLOW, BUT I HOPE YOU CONTINUE TO PICK THEM UP. THANK YOU FOR READING ALL THE WAY TO THE END HERE!



TAGAWA MI



ちちこぐさ ④

2015年9月25日初版発行

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©Mi Tagawa 2015

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■印刷所

中央精版印刷株式会社

■装幀

徳重甫+パイブリッジ・スタジオ

初出/月刊コミックガーデン 2015年2月～4月、6月～8月号(先行掲載)

コミックブレイド 2015年3月～5月、7月～9月配信分

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ISBN978-4-8000-0496-3 C9979

Printed in Japan

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